

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 170887

64

ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:TJCAROLAN:JFC

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NEA - MR. SAUNDERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 170887

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, LE, US

SUBJECT: ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PALESTINIAN ROLE IN COL.
MORGAN'S RELEASE

REF: BEIRUT 8909

FOR AMBASSADOR GODLEY

1. AGREE WITH YOUR BASIC POINT THAT IT WOULD BE IN OUR
INTEREST TO SEND 'ARAFAT A SIGNAL THAT WE HAVE TAKEN
NOTE OF AND APPRECIATE EFFORTS OF SOME LEADING PALESTINIAN
PERSONALITIES TO SECURE COLONEL MORGAN'S RELEASE. WE
BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT MORE INDIRECT AND CONFIDENTIAL CHAN-
NEL THAN YOU RECOMMEND SHOULD BE USED FOR THIS PURPOSE.
SUGGEST YOU CONSIDER USING SOME REASONABLY DISCREET CHAN-

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PAGE 02 STATE 170887

NEL SUCH AS GHASSAN TUEINI, WHO HAS GOOD CONNECTIONS WITH

PERSONS CLOSE TO 'ARAFAT AND HAS TRIED TO ACT AS GO-
BETWEEN BETWEEN THEM AND EMBASSY IN PAST. IF TUEINI
SEEMS TO YOU UNSUITABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE, WE WOULD DEFER
TO YOUR JUDGMENT IN CHOOSING ANOTHER INTERMEDIARY ON WHOSE
DISCRETION AND ACCESS TO 'ARAFAT YOU CAN SAFELY RELY.

2. MESSAGE ITSELF SHOULD BE IN GENERAL TERMS AND OF COURSE
ORAL. POINT TO BE MADE IS THAT USG IS AWARE THAT SOME
LEADING PALESTINIANS WORKED CONSTRUCTIVELY TO SECURE
MORGAN'S RELEASE AND WERE IMPORTANT FACTOR IN FAVORABLE
OUTCOME. WE APPRECIATE THEIR EFFORTS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LIBERATION FRONTS, PRISONERS RELEASE, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: blackhc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE170887
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TJCAROLAN:JFC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P850036-2635, N750002-0183
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750738/aaaabich.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 75 BEIRUT 8909
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blackhc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 MAY 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <15 AUG 2003 by izenbei0, 3.4.X6>; APPROVED <02 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>; RELEASED <11 MAY 2005 by blackhc>; APPROVED <11 MAY 2005 by blackhc>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PALESTINIAN ROLE IN COL. MORGAN'S RELEASE
TAGS: PINS, LE, US, PLO, (ARAFAT, YASSER), (MORGAN, ERNEST R)
To: BEIRUT DAMASCUS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006